



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 620

February Session, 2002

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 51-81d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Superior Court, in accordance with rules established by the
4 judges of the Superior Court, may (1) establish a Client Security Fund
5 to (A) reimburse claims for losses caused by the dishonest conduct of
6 attorneys admitted to the practice of law in this state and incurred in
7 the course of an attorney-client relationship, and (B) provide crisis
8 intervention and referral assistance to attorneys admitted to the
9 practice of law in this state who have mental health, alcohol, substance
10 abuse or gambling problems, and (2) assess any person admitted as an
11 attorney by the Superior Court, in accordance with section 51-80, an
12 annual fee to be deposited in said Client Security Fund. Not more than
13 fifty per cent of any increase in such annual fee that goes into effect
14 after the effective date of this section shall be used to provide crisis
15 intervention and referral assistance pursuant to subparagraph (B) of
16 subdivision (1) of this section. The specific percentage of such increase
17 to be used for such assistance shall be determined from time to time by
18 the judges of the Superior Court.

19 (b) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, or the commissioner's
20 designee, shall collect any fee established pursuant to subsection (a) of

21 this section, record such payments with the State Comptroller and
 22 deposit such payments promptly with the State Treasurer, who shall
 23 credit such payments to the Client Security Fund. The Treasurer shall
 24 maintain the Client Security Fund separate and apart from all other
 25 moneys, funds and accounts and shall credit any interest earned from
 26 the Client Security Fund to the fund. Any interest earned from the
 27 fund [during the period from its inception to May 26, 2000, shall be
 28 retroactively] shall be credited to the fund.

29 (c) The Client Security Fund shall be used [only] to satisfy the claims
 30 and provide crisis intervention and referral assistance approved in
 31 accordance with procedures established pursuant to rules of the
 32 Superior Court and to pay the reasonable costs of administration of the
 33 fund.

34 (d) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall notify the Chief
 35 Court Administrator or his designee of the failure of any person to pay
 36 any fee assessed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows: | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> |

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*